



**Connecticut Conference
United Church of Christ**

125 Sherman Street
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**Testimony in Support of S.B. 906:
An Act Creating the Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council
Submitted by, Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate
Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ
February 17, 2015**

Senator Flexer, Representative Hennessy, and distinguished members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs,

I am Michele Mudrick, Legislative Advocate for the Connecticut Conference, United Church of Christ and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 906: An Act Creating the Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council.

I am writing on behalf of the 240 congregations and more than 75,000 people in our state's churches. In fact, the United Church of Christ (UCC) is the largest Protestant denomination in Connecticut. Nationally, the UCC has more than 5,700 congregations with nearly 1 million members.

We are in full support of a Veteran's Council facilitating the reintegration of incarcerated veterans into the community. We understand that establishment of a Reintegration Council will assist Veterans by educating and connecting them to vital services. Veterans need assistance with housing, food, employment, untreated mental illness, as well as drug and alcohol addictions, and issues associated with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Veterans need access to a wide array of resources at the time they are released from incarceration. Support and resources are crucial to achieve consistent, long-term stability. It has been proven that there is a cost savings when there is success in preventing incarceration and reducing recidivism.

The UCC recognizes and honors the significant sacrifices made by veterans on behalf of our members and our nation. We understand that the stress of military service can place some veterans in need of assistance. This bill will protect and promote the interests of veterans who are in greatest need. All of God's veterans' deserve assistance after they have served their time in prison. We therefore, urge the Committee to support S.B. 906 which would establish an Incarcerated Veterans Reintegration Council.

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of S.B. 906.

Blessings,
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